

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 15 has been amended and claim 16 has been canceled. Further, claims 18-20 have been amended to update the dependency. No new matter has been added. Support for the language added to claim 15 can be found in original claim 16 and page 13, lines 20-23 and page 14 of the specification.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 15, 17, 24, 25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 08-048510 (hereinafter "JP '510"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '510 teaches an automatic fullerene synthesizer. However, JP '510 does not teach or suggest a magnetic field having multidirectional lines of magnetic force applied in an area where the discharge plasma is generated to form a magnetic field space so as to be brought into an occluded state by the magnetic field as recited in claim 15.

As admitted by the Patent Office, JP '510 does not teach or suggest a magnetic field having multidirectional lines of magnetic force as recited in original claim 16, now incorporated into claim 15.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15, 17, 24, 25 and 28 are allowable because JP '510 does not teach or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 15. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 15-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over "Effects of High Magnetic Field on the Morphology of Carbon Nanotubes and Selective

Synthesis of Fullerenes," Applied Physics Letters, Vol. 74, No. 13, March 29, 1999, pp. 1827-29 (hereinafter "Yomichi") in view of JP '510.

As in JP '510, Yomichi does not teach or suggest a magnetic field having multidirectional lines of magnetic force applied in an area where the discharge plasma is generated to form a magnetic field space so as to be brought into an occluded state by the magnetic field as recited in claim 15.

In fact, the direction of the applied magnetic field is parallel to the direction of the arc current. See page 1827, second column of Yokomichi. This would mean that the magnetic field does not have multidirectional lines. Furthermore, Yokomichi does not teach or suggest forming a magnetic field space so as to be brought into an occluded state by the magnetic field as recited in claim 15.

Thus, JP '510 and Yokomichi, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 15. Applicants submit that claims 15-29 are allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 and 17-29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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